

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the instant application on the basis of amended claims 1 and 3, withdrawn Claims 5 and 8 and new Claim 10. Claims 1, 3, and 10 are the main claims and the remaining claims are directly or indirectly dependent upon those.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to overcome the Claim Objections made on page 3 of the subject Office Action.

Additionally, apparatus Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation that the cladding glass is acid soluble further distinguishing the patentability of the apparatus claims.

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,311,001 by Rosine (*Rosine*). It is believed that Claims 1 to 9 are clearly distinguishable over this reference for the reasons that will be set forth.

Changes to the Specification

The specification has been changed to remove the erroneous chemical characterization of sodium hydroxide as an acid. Also, the equally incorrect corresponding claims 5 and 8 that were previously presented in Amendment A have now been withdrawn.

The correction to the specification does not introduce new subject matter since it merely corrects or removes a chemical misstatement or mischaracterization.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Grounds for Rejection

The Examiner has principally rejected the claims as being anticipated by *Rosine*. It is believed that Claims 1 to 9 are clearly distinguishable over this *Rosine* reference for the reasons that will be set forth and that have been previously submitted.

The *Rosine* patent teaches etching a microchannel plate preform with “a conventional **alkaline** leach process.” [emphasis added] (Col. 3, line 45-47) The preform is then processed “in a conventional acid decore process.” (Col. 3, line 47-48)

The *Wilcox* patent discloses using three types of glass in the formation of a microchannel plate: a core glass and at least two types of cladding glass. (Abstract and Col. 6, lines 18-40) Additionally, *Willcox* describes the first step as an etching bath with HCL to etch out the core, followed by Hydrofluoric acid to etch away clad #1 and form tapered edges at the channel opening. (Col. 6, lines 48-68)

Since Applicants’ claimed first etching step of a single type of cladding glass using a first acid of the Applicant’s invention as claimed is not disclosed or suggested by *Rosine*, Applicant suggests that the claimed structure of the present invention is neither identical to or disclosed by either of the *Rosine* or *Wilcox* devices. Therefore, *Rosine* cannot anticipate the present claimed invention.

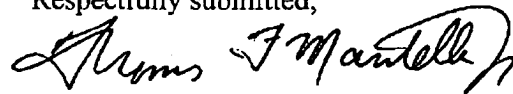
New Claim

New Claim 10 is added to more fully claim the present invention and is directed to a microchannel plate perform directed to a substrate having adjacent microtubules formed from acid soluble glass and an interior acid soluble core glass.

Conclusion

For all the reasons given above, this application is now submitted to contain claims that define a novel, patentable, and truly valuable invention. Hence allowance of this application is respectfully submitted to be proper and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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